



Thank You

I'd like to thank all of you who have made 2007-2008 our best year ever. We strive to grow the best plants and also to provide the best customer service possible. Mother Nature has an important role in how we operate our business and, unfortunately, at times she has not been on our side. This caused some major frustration for us when trying to send out thousands of mail orders. Many a time this year we've wished we could have sent the rain on to you!

My business is actually quite small when compared to the large mail order companies down south (who we also supply!) but due to my three loyal, hard-working staff, we are able to achieve amazing things. We grow over 1000 varieties, many of which we have about 200-300 plants each. We cultivate and maintain two hectares of daylilies, plus on average we dig and despatch 75 mail orders a week, send out numerous fundraising orders, and dig thousands of daylilies for other nurseries. Not bad for such a small team!

We are committed to the continued success of Mountain View Daylily Nursery and we will strive to continue to provide the best daylilies to you far into the future. We hope to hear from you again during the next 12 months and we are sure that our daylilies will continue to delight you for a long time to come.

Scott Alexander

That's Your Bloomin' Lot

As most readers of the Gardening Australia magazine and ABC TV viewers may already know, Peter Cundall is finally retiring in August this year. What an amazing contribution he has made to gardening in this country during the past two decades! Peter's emphasis on gardening organically has really pleased me, as it's something I have also been promoting passionately through my catalogues and newsletters ever since I began growing daylilies 31 years ago. It's very encouraging to hear via magazines I read and seminars I attend that the use of organic products is increasing.

If it's at all possible for anyone to "fill his boots" in the ABC Gardening TV programme and at ABC garden shows, I hope that person continues the 'crusade' and also brings a bit of fun to gardening. There is no doubt in my mind that in the very near future many people will have to learn how to garden and begin growing their own vegetables, no matter how small a space they have around their home. Let's hope the ABC chooses someone who will inspire everyone just like Peter did - in my opinion, Mary Moody would do a great job!

Maleny Daylilies Brochure

My office manager, Jenny Waldock, who has now been part of my small team for 6 years, had been hounding me to put together a catalogue of all the daylilies I've bred in the past that we still have in stock. I'd given up serious hybridising about 6 years ago and wasn't too fussed about doing this, but eventually I gave in and said "OK, but you'll have to do all the work. I'll make sure the photos are good and you can do the rest!" I think you'll agree that Jenny has done a great job in putting together a very attractive brochure.

I particularly like the new layout idea she has used for the discounts section on the last page, where you can browse through our range of multi packs. Buy all 7 in a pack for the best bargains, or you can buy any of them separately, as priced. I've bred so many lovely varieties, it was hard to fit them all in!

But ...Unfortunately I goofed!

Back in March and April this year I had a new brochure called *Irresistible Daylilies* inserted into both the Gardening Australia and Country Style magazines. Unlike previous years, this time we were swamped with hundreds of orders and spent the next three months trying to catch up! Unfortunately, during the hectic weeks that followed I forgot that some of the same daylilies I had selected were also going in the new *Maleny* brochure and I'm sorry to say I didn't keep enough stock aside for it. When I "woke up" to the dilemma, only a few plants remained of some of those very popular varieties, which I have listed below. We are presently replanting them into new beds so we should have ample stocks to enable us to begin selling them again by the end of April 2009. These are the varieties I'm short of at the moment:-

Ethereal, Just Dynamite, Irresistabelle, Little Bit Lively, Maleny Elegance, Maleny Showgirl.

Due to our miserably wet and cool summer this year, the following 2 new varieties **Heavenly Grace & Pastel Petticoats**, need a little more time to be at their best and should be available from November 2008.

IMPORTANT - Please read BEFORE you order from the Maleny brochure:

If you wish to order any of the above varieties mentioned we'll take your order and payment for them now and reserve them for you, and we'll send them postage-free in early May 2009. I know my mistake will frustrate some of you so please accept my apologies. Maybe I could blame it on "daylily dementia" - a serious mental illness that affects ageing daylily addicts!

Crikey!

I mentioned that the daylilies in the *Maleny* brochure were all ones that I had bred but that's not 100% correct. About ten years ago a friend of mine visited from Ohio, Curt Hanson. He is a well known daylily breeder and once he saw what I had already bred and the new varieties I'd imported from the USA, he couldn't restrain himself and was out amongst them hybridising as soon as the sun came up!

Twelve months later when I was evaluating the resulting seedlings, I came across an outrageous unique flower and said "*Crikey, this is unusual. Where did this come from?*" It was one of Curt's and it appealed greatly to me. From memory, I think it was a cross of **Just Bizarre and All American Tiger** - a cross I'd never think of making myself. Then when our local hero, Steve Irwin, met his untimely death, I thought about one of his favourite words "Crikey" and so Jenny and I decided that we should support the Irwin family's Wildlife Warriors programme and donate \$2 from the sale of every **Crikey** daylily to that very worthy cause.

There are also several other varieties in the brochure that weren't bred by me. Years ago I used to swap daylilies with other keen collectors in the USA but some of the ones sent to me didn't turn out to be correctly named. I've been unable to identify them so now that they have multiplied, I've given them my own nursery names.

Some people are curious about how I select names for my Maleny daylilies. Those that follow horse-racing will know where some of the names originated from! Although I only have a few more daylilies to name, I still quickly look through the race results every week and jot down any interesting names.

News from the Farm

When I looked back at last year's September newsletter I read that I was "complaining" about the unusually heavy winter rains we had, and how it slowed us up getting the mail orders out to our clients within 3 weeks of receiving them. Judging by the large number of orders we received in Spring and Summer last year, I think many of you must have been blessed with this rain as well. Every time it rains in our Sunshine Coast hinterland hills we tell it to go somewhere else for a change!

And guess what? Another very unusual rainfall pattern occurred this year, starting the week before Christmas and continuing into February. We had only one sunny day of summer when the temperature reached 33 degrees, but 143 cm (57 inches) of rain fell during the 3 month period! It's the first time ever in 27 years living in Maleny I've seen the grass and the daylilies not grow due to the lack of sunshine, and cloudy days for weeks on end. The 'locals' (those people born here over 50 years ago) reckon it used to be like this quite regularly in the past so it must have been before my time!

Again, the farm became a quagmire of mud and so we were unable to do any of the usual tasks that we normally carry out at that time of the year. One of the most important jobs we couldn't do was to dig up all the newest, most expensive varieties and line them out in specially prepared beds where they usually take off and quickly grow into nice big divisions. When clients order my more expensive varieties I like to send nice big plants, but unfortunately some weren't as big as I would have liked, due to the bad weather during our "summer".

Dollar Deals

I was nothing short of amazed by the decline in the value of the US Dollar late last year and its continued slump since then. I had decided that I wouldn't bother importing any more new daylilies from the USA because of the very heavy costs involved, but once I saw what was happening with the exchange rates I found the new introductions from their top breeders just too irresistible and so I ordered many more to add to our collection! If you have internet access you may like to go to "Google" and check out breeders such as Jack Carpenter, Patrick Stamile, Dan Trimmer, and John Kinnebrew. The colours, ruffles, eye patterns and edges are incredible (fingers crossed that their photography is accurate!)

Last week, Patrick sent me his latest catalogue. I wish he would stop doing that! There are colours I've never seen during 32 years of growing daylilies. Go to Google and search for "Bart Roberts daylily" - a very large orchid rose with a huge velvety blue red eye and edge. It's very tempting! To give you an idea of the US prices - of the 11 new introductions, four are @ \$US200, five @ \$US150, and two @ \$US100! Patrick mentions that he and his wife planted 12,000 seeds this year. When these flower, he selects only 200 or 300 and some he will name if the blooms are truly distinctive with excellent growth habits. He will use some to continue his breeding lines, but the rest are not sold **but are killed off with Round-up**. Honestly, it would make you cry if you could see what he destroys!

On A Gardener's Life

Quotes taken from "A Touch of Humus" by Diana Anthony.

'Gardening is so relaxing': It's damn hard work & brutal toil.

'It's such good exercise—it keeps me fit': My back and knees hurt and I'm having cortisone injections in my wrist, elbows, and shoulders.

'Such an absorbing hobby': I have to do something because I can't afford to go out, to the pub, or a holiday.

'I enjoy everything about the garden': I live, eat, & sleep the garden and I'm a crashing bore.'

'Amazing savings on growing my own vegies': In terms of time, labour, spray, & fertiliser, my spuds cost \$20 a kilo, my peas \$5 a pod, and a cabbage head comes in at around \$8!

Think Twice Before Importing Soil!

I took my dog Bobby to the Vet the other day and, as usual, we got chatting. When he found out I knew about horticulture he told me of some good soil he'd been given by a friend to build up his veggie bed (water was covering some of it during our heavy rains!) He was assured that this was good top soil taken from under his friend's house when a new garage was built). But, although it looked good, the trouble was that nothing grew in it except weeds! The seedlings he'd planted in it many weeks before were still only tiny! He asked what I thought the problem was and what could be done about it.

How many of you have had the same problem when you've brought "topsoil" or "compost" in to help create a garden and it turned out to be of questionable quality? In this case the soil looked good but it was almost lifeless - it had no beneficial microbes, worms, or any other soil life in it. It came from underneath a house where there is little or no light and therefore nothing ever grew in it. In addition to sunlight, for plants to grow well they need the help of microbes, and for microbes to thrive and do their 'job' in the soil, they need the sugars that roots exude. I'm sure that many farmers have discovered that there are better alternatives to leaving paddocks fallow after a crop, and now they plant cover crops which feed the microbes and eventually add valuable organic matter to the soil.

My advice? I recommended he find all the information he can about **No-Dig Gardening** and start straight away on remedying the problem. Since Ester Deans promoted this type of gardening many years ago, much has been written about it in gardening books, magazines and on the internet. Basically, No-Dig Gardening means that you don't disturb the soil, instead adding layers of organic matter on top. You start with laying thick sheets of newspapers, and building up several layers each of manure, lucerne hay, manure, straw, and in the top layer add good compost (into which some seedlings and potatoes could be planted straight away). Water well as you build up the pile and add some organic fertiliser such as Dynamic Lifter Plus, and a little blood and bone to each layer, as well as a blend of liquid seaweed and fish. Over time the bed will break down into a nutrient-rich soil by the activity of microbes and worms, so it will need to be kept topped up with fresh layers of organic matter.

A Very Sad Tale

A letter arrived recently from a newcomer to daylilies who had moved from Tasmania to far north Queensland. Unfortunately, the new sub-division they bought had previously been a sugar cane farm two years before they started to create their new garden. The cane had been removed by spraying it with a powerful weedkiller. Had I known all this before selling her a large number of daylilies I would have warned her about the possibility of serious problems. Having listened over the years to a few complaints about my daylilies dying, on questioning the growers I soon realised it's not the daylilies that are the problem but the unhealthy soil in which they've been planted. Some examples are: soil which has been previously used for growing pineapples, sugar cane, cotton, paw paw, and intensive market gardening, in fact anywhere that the chemical forms of nitrogen, phosphate and potassium fertilisers have been used extensively. As our cities grow and the suburbs replace various agricultural and horticultural practices, gardeners need to be aware of the history of their soils.

I don't have the space here to explain all the problems associated with chemical agriculture but a simple remedy if you find you are trying to grow anything in unhealthy soil is to be patient and add organic fertilisers and grass mulches, much like in No-Dig Gardening methods. Don't overdo adding animal or chook manures unless they are old or composted, otherwise your daylilies could grow too quickly and become "fat" and not hardy. Liquid seaweed and fish fertilisers, or liquid worm castings if you can get it, (diluted 10 to 1) will help in bringing back the beneficial microbes and worms. By the way, worms aren't fussy - they'll consume both good and bad microbes in the soil BUT they hate chemical fertilisers!

Gardening Australia Magazine August 2008 Issue – Special Offer

There are two great reasons for you to buy this magazine:

1. **There is a 20 page tribute to Peter Cundall inserted in the magazine**
2. **We have a 2 page “special” featuring 20 gorgeous daylilies as an exclusive offer to readers only!**

The magazine is due out around the 19th July so be sure to book your copy at your local newsagent.

Ordering from our Special Offer

We would prefer that you post your order form to us rather than phone it through, or you can use our internet shop on-line, as we are going to be very busy digging and packing the orders from the *Maleny Daylilies* brochure we've just sent you!

Please note the date we'll begin despatching orders is 6th August 2008.

25 Years of Mail Orders

Doesn't time fly when you're having fun? It's hard to realise that it was back in 1983 when I was teaching in the South Burnett area that I began sending mail orders to clients. Mind you, back then I didn't send too many - just some to Kingaroy and Kilcoy after I put an advertisement in the South Burnett Times. I had a small backyard hobby business, but it wasn't until I came to Maleny in 1984 and then retired from teaching in 1986 that I became a serious daylily collector. I had to retire from teaching due to eye problems and I needed to find something to keep me occupied.

I've just dug out some copies of the 1983 *Daylily Journal* to check on what was happening back then in the USA. Here in Australia at that time there were 4 small daylily nurseries that imported plants from the USA, there weren't too many people who knew what a daylily was, and there were no daylily clubs in Australia (1986 was the year a few of us created both a Queensland and an Australian club.)

By 1983 I had already begun importing plants from my mentors David Kirchhoff and Mort Morss from Daylily World in Florida, and also from Lucille Guidry, and Bill Munson - the most important breeder of tetraploid daylilies at that time. I couldn't afford the high prices of new ones then, which seemed outrageous, so I would wait a couple years until the prices came down. However, I loved the photo and description of **Frank Gladney** so I had to have it and paid a whopping \$US50 for it! I was sent two divisions but I managed to kill one when experimenting with a method of rapid propagation. I couldn't guess how many plants of Frank Gladney I've sold since then - and I still have 300 of them!

Here's an extract from an excellent article written in one of the 1983 Daylily Journals—*“The soil must be friable and porous to allow moisture to circulate through it. Earthworms do this by bringing 15 tons per acre of earth to the surface per year to make one-fifth of an inch of topsoil and loosen the soil for the good bacteria to thrive. There may be 4 tons of living micro-organisms per acre of soil, and more in number in a teaspoon, than there are people on earth.”*

Unfortunately he didn't emphasize a policy of “less is best” regarding the use of chemical fertilisers. Although there are still too many growers in the USA who only use these fertilisers, it was heartening to read in a recent journal that more and more folks are turning to organic alternatives.

Faith will never die as long as coloured seed and plant catalogues are printed—

Anon

The Daylily “Stars” 25 Years Ago?

I've included this historical section for the benefit of some of my clients who are interested in the development of the modern daylily. Many of the varieties mentioned have had a great influence on breeding programmes, and many of today's new introductions would have some of the ones mentioned below in their parentage.

Patrick Stamile wrote recently: *“So while I create new daylilies I do appreciate those who still collect the old, and what are called historic daylilies. I think we have lost some traits which might be helpful and I am glad that others have some of these old ones.”*

Popularity Polls

An Annual Popularity Poll is conducted by the American Hemerocallis Society. Nationally, the top ten in 1983 were: RUFFLED APRICOT, ED MURRAY, SABIE, STELLA DE ORA, MY BELLE, BLUE HAPPINESS, ATTRIBUTION, JOAN SENIOR, HARRY BARRAS, BECKY LYNN. Of these, I grow Joan Senior and Becky Lynn. The rest have come and gone, but if you can find them in a nursery try growing them and see what you think. In spite of all the newer fancy eyes and edges, there are still a lot of my clients who prefer the older varieties and their plain colours.

I used to make sure I imported the ones that were most popular in Florida because the climate closely resembles that of Maleny. The following were the most popular: SHIBUI SPLENDOUR, JEAN WOOTEN, SABIE, BECKY LYNN, BETTY WOODS, COSMIC HUMMINGBIRD, JANET GAYLE. Becky Lynn and Betty Woods are still favourites of mine and I'll continue to sell them for many years to come.

Awards & Honours 1983

Stout Medal: (top award) SABIE

Best Mini: SILOAM RED TOY

Best Double: BETTY WOODS

The following also won top awards in their class:

ED MURRAY, SILOAM BO PEEP, SNOW BALLERINA, MIDNIGHT MAGIC (I still grow the last two.)

New Introductions from the Top Breeders in 1983

Checking on the ads in one of the 1983 Journals, I see that:

Ken Durio: (who a few of us reckoned charged too much!) was selling CEE TEE and FRANK GLADNEY for \$US100.

David Kirchhoff: BETTE DAVIS EYES \$US75, CHORUS LINE \$US50, MOZAMBIQUE \$US125 (Wow! - this was a very dark double velvety ruby red double which I never got around to importing and I don't think it ever came to Australia) MING PORCELAIN \$US75 (David gave me this one as a bonus and I was “over the moon” at the time. I still grow it and think it's a very good pale pink but it was never a hit with my clients.)

Sarah Sikes: She created a much sought after daylily in 1980 called DESIGNER GOWN which she sold for \$US50 in 1983. It was one of the first Tetraploids with a deep lavender eye and an edge. Most breeders were striving to create eyed and edged daylilies in the early 1980's and I'd imagine this was used by many.

Reckamp, Klehm & Peck: The early 1980's saw the beginning of ruffled edges of a different colour from the rest of the flower. Reckamp bred one of the most beautiful daylilies I've ever seen - ANGEL'S SMILE - a small pastel pink with a ruffled yellow edge. This variety and others from Reckamp became the parents of important varieties bred by Klehm and Peck (she produced DANCE BALLERINA DANCE which had incredible ruffles.)

Gardener's Lament

The things I sow somehow don't grow, I'm sorely disenchanted; But, oh, what luck I have with stuff, I never ever planted

Anon

Some Funny Incidents

I see in the dictionary that the word funny has five different meanings. In the course of a week I think we come across most of them!

“Where’s my order – I paid for Express Mail so my order should be here by now!” Express Mail doesn’t mean we jump to it and dig your order straight away! It means Aussie Post should get it to you the next day once we’ve sent it if you live in a city, or in 2-3 days if you live in a country area. Please be patient!

“I found your daylily brochure at the tip!”

We usually ask clients who phone in their orders how they got hold of my brochure. I thought this reply was quite funny as it reminded me of the reply I got to a question I asked a nurseryman in Leura when we were on holiday there in 1978. I asked where I could buy some daylilies. He said “No one wants daylilies around here. You’ll find plenty at the tip!” I’d say he was talking about the very invasive double orange tan species daylily that was one of the two daylilies given to me in 1976, and which I threw out as well!

“I put in an order for some bulbs ages ago and they haven’t turned up yet.” After a quick check on our client data base and finding he hasn’t bought anything from us ever, we ask if he’s sure he ordered daylilies from us. He should have rung one of the mail order nurseries in Victoria and asked them about his daffodil and tulip bulb orders! By the way...daylilies are NOT bulbs!

No name and address on the order form! Yes . . . believe it or not, some people must get so overwhelmed with our brochures (or so forgetful!) that they don’t fill in their details on the order form! Luckily, some people write their details on the envelope, or if they sent a cheque we can contact their bank and ask them to notify the client. Then there are some who give us no name & address but include their credit card number! We have no way of contacting them so we have to wait for them to ring and ask “Where are my daylilies!”.

A coincidence

A couple of weeks ago we had orders from 2 clients with the exact same names, and guess what happened? In our desperation to get over 100 orders ready for the parcel pickup that day, the client who had ordered 10 plants got a box with only 3 in it! Of course, she was the first to let us know about the mistake!

Secret Women’s Business

We sometimes get very amusing calls from ladies wanting to order daylilies, who say “My husband has just gone out (or sometimes it’s “my husband’s in the shower”), so I want to give you my order now!” Then they usually say that once the daylilies are growing in the garden, it’s too late for their husband to complain that they bought more plants!

A Way To Fertilise & Kill Insects At The Same Time!!

In one of the 1983 American Daylily Journals an “expert” at the time wrote:

Being allergic to work, I am always looking for the easy way to do things. L.W. and J.C told me how to save time on fertilising and getting those insects in a single application about every six weeks. It is Ortho’s Systemic Rose and Flower care. Sure cleaned out the early aphids and the seedling growth is good. Only my best will receive this special attention.

OK, what else did it “clean out” at the same time? I hope she gave “special attention” to her own safety!

To cultivate a garden
Takes too much time and labour.
I’d rather live next door to one
And cultivate my neighbour.

Stephen Way

How Will New Daylilies Look in 25 Years Time?

Blue daylilies don’t exist at the moment, but some breeders are enlarging the blue eye so that eventually it will cover 95% of the flower. There are no pure whites and probably never will be, but with the bio-technology available these days who knows what will be possible in the future? Perhaps someone will splice the blue or white gene from petunias into daylilies? I mentioned before about Stamile’s incredible colours in the eyes and ruffled edges. I wonder if there will just be ruffled edges of all colours but no eye pattern at all? Some present-day blooms are so ruffled that the ruffles get snagged and the flower doesn’t open properly, so I wonder if the breeders can turn around and breed out the ruffles and still keep the amazing colour palette now available in daylilies? Will I be around to see all these developments? Umm . . .

West Australian Orders

To put it simply—we have a problem sending orders to WA clients. Under the new regulations which came into force in 2008 the plants must be free of soil, dipped in expensive chemicals, and must be inspected by a DPI inspector. Without going into details, all this is turning out to be a very costly (and frustrating) exercise for us and is not being covered by the surcharge we previously asked you to pay.

As from July 2008 the following will apply (WA only):

1. The surcharge will be increased to \$10 per order (plus postage at \$12 for orders up to 14 plants).
2. To compensate for the extra cost to you, I will add a FREE \$12 daylily to your order (you choose the colour).
3. Orders will be dispatched every 4-6 weeks.
4. The above will apply to any orders we are now holding so we will contact you about this.
5. The next shipment will be sent late August.

It’s not good news for our clients but the only other alternative is for us to stop sending daylilies to WA.

Interested in Old Brochures & Catalogues?

During the past 3 three years we have produced three Connoisseur brochures A, B, & C, plus smaller brochures called Dynamic Daylilies, Irresistible Daylilies, & one for fundraising called Fantastic Daylilies for Fundraising.

If you’d like to see lots of pretty daylilies or are thinking of adding a few more to your collection, please send a large (21cm X 15cm) self-addressed envelope with a \$1.00 stamp on it and we’ll fit as many as we can in it.

Language Used in Nursery Catalogues

More funnies from *A Touch of Humus* by Diana Anthony

Vigorous: Will strangle everything else in sight

Striking colour: Unbelievably garish

Dainty: Small and insignificant

Subtle perfume: Scentless

Repeat flowering: May offer a freak bloom or two in Autumn

Grows best in full sun: Requires a sub-tropical climate

Unusual colour combination: Ugh!

Hardy/easy grow: Will succeed if you can find the right combination of sun, shade, hot, cold, drainage & moisture.

Anemone: Perennial herb inm the buttercup fanimly with amn extremenly amnoying mname

The Last Word

A toddler was found chewing on a slug. After the initial surge of disgust the parent said, “Well, what does it taste like?”

“Worms” the toddler said!